

**DOE TEC Inter-Modal Subtopic Group Conference Call  
Wednesday, September 19, 2007, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT**

**Conference Call Minutes**

**Participants:**

**Chair:** Melissa Bailey (CSG/NE)

**Members:** Alex Thrower (OCRWM), Bob Halstead (State of Nevada), Cash Jaszczak (Nye County, Nevada), Lee Finewood (BAH), Sarah Wochos (CSG/MW), Kurt Colborn (MHF Logistics), Jane Beetem (State of Missouri), Tony Dimond (Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen)

**Contractor Support:** John Smegal (Legin)

**Summary:**

Melissa Bailey opened the meeting by recapping the discussion from the last conference call and highlighting the background materials that were distributed to the group. Bob Halstead indicated that he had a number of issues that he believed the intermodal group should address and he also commented that he was looking forward to seeing how the EIS and SEIS -- to be released in mid-October -- would cover intermodal issues. Alex Thrower commented that these documents would likely attempt to answer many of his questions.

Melissa Bailey next discussed the recently completed site visit and meeting in Pennsylvania that was hosted by the FRA and CSG/NE. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together state officials and FRA representatives to discuss shortline railroad issues and utility interfaces. The meeting involved a tour of a shortline track and a heavy haul truck route and a site visit to a barge slip. Bob Halstead asked whether there were representatives from New Jersey and Delaware at the meeting. Alex Thrower indicated that the State of New Jersey was represented. He did not believe anyone from the state of Delaware was in attendance.

Cash Jaszczak commented that he would like to see DOE assess public confidence in the ability to conduct intermodal operations. Bob Halstead stated that there appeared to be regional differences; for example, within the southeast and northeast there were no issues, but in other regions (e.g., Delaware, Michigan, California, Nevada), public confidence was less evident. He suggested that the intermodal subgroup could conduct a poll of the various groups/regions to better identify public confidence issues. Alex Thrower agreed and he proposed that one way to gather the data would be to hold additional shortline rail tours at sites across the country and poll the attendees. Melissa Bailey stated that she would finalize the trip report for the Pennsylvania meeting, distribute it to members of the subgroup, and also prepare a draft set of questions that would form the basis of a poll of state representatives.

Kurt Colborn next raised the issue of intermodal operations within marshalling yards. In particular, he asked whether DOE might use a marshalling yard to receive and consolidate shipments from multiple points of origin. If so, he asked if such a facility would be an existing facility or new construction. He observed that DOE's use of marshalling yards raised a number of institutional and technical considerations (e.g., bridge restrictions, road weight limits). He also suggested that the concept should not be limited to marshalling of rail cars within a yard, but should be extended to include truck, barge, and rail facilities.

Bob Halstead asked whether DOE was contemplating a test or pilot of how 180(c) would be implemented with respect to intermodal operations, particularly during the early years of shipping when intermodal operations are likely to be more prominent. He also asked whether the EIS would include an assessment of more intermodal transport within the State of Nevada in the event rail capabilities are slow to develop. Alex Thrower noted that he would have to wait until the EIS was issued to determine if these concerns were addressed.

Lastly, Sarah Wochos suggested that the subgroup needed to define its scope and assemble a workplan, to better guide its activities. Melissa Bailey agreed to put together a preliminary draft prior to the next call.

The call was adjourned.

**Action Items:**

- Prepare a draft Intermodal Subgroup workplan
- Finalize Pennsylvania shortline assessment trip report
- Identify potential sites for additional shortline tours/meetings
- Develop questions for states to help identify intermodal public confidence issues, as well as institutional and technical constraints